

TRANSECTS ON THE BIRDS NEAR MYSORE BANK COLONY, BANGALORE
DURING MAY-JUNE 1979 BY M.B.KRISHNA.

The area of observation falls S.W. of Mysore bank colony, Hanumanthanagar, Bangalore 19. It can be said to be included by the squares C17,C18,C19,D17,D18 of the Bangalore Guide Map published by the Survey of India, 1:20,000 scale first ed. 1969. It in a way adjoins the Banashankari III stage III phase which is yet to develop.

The ground is somewhat undulating and the area somewhat wooded (Tamarindus, Ficus etc.). A line transect along one of the sections gave a density of about 28 trees per hectare. The trees are distributed along the edges of cropland. In addition to the trees, thick hedges are also present. There are both rainfed and irrigated cropfields. There are some vegetable gardens, vineyards, papaya, coconut and guava plantations in the vicinity. There are also sewage ponds and canals nearby. A Mango tope is present a little away. Weeds like Lantana and Parthenium were also present in the study area. The rainfed cropfeilds were just being ploughed during the period of study.

The observations extended from the end of May to the end of June 1979. The time spent during the five outings was about 240 minutes (moving time).

The transect method was made use of to record the observations. An average speed of about 3.2 KMPH was kept up. The radial range of encounter was about 45 m. Only the moving time was taken into account. The transect counts were made between 8 a.m. and about 9-30 a.m., sometimes with a break of about five minutes in between. The transects were made only in the areas with trees. The no. of birds were recorded per unit time and have been given in the table as contacts covering birds top the list accounting for about 40.4% of the population. Near were the insectivorous species accounting for 15.2%. The omnivorous, the frugivorous, the aquatic and the predatory birds followed accounting for 16.7%, 4.7% and 11.3% of the population respectively. The house crow was observed to be the most common bird (whose c/h was 1.5 or less). The ratio of the former to the latter was 14:23. This was because these crows used to come to feed while the ploughing operations were going on and which are generally carried out only after a few showers. Hence the increase in numbers during the later outcrop. The overall frequency of meeting flocks or groups of various sizes is given below.

All the counts were made during nonrainy weather but sometimes partly cloudy weather prevailed. Thirty seven species were recorded during the period of study. The common sp. (i.e. those whose c/h was more than 1.5) were relatively less compared to the not so common species (whose c/h was 1.5 or less). The ratio of the former to the latter was 14:23. Out of the total of thirty seven species, 5 sp. can be classed as granmivorous, 7 as frugivorous, 14 as insectivorous and two as mainly predatory. The omnivorous and the scavenging birds together accounted for about 5 species. Three sp. of water birds though primarily are to be found near water were also found in the study area since the wetlands could also perhaps provide a suitable habitat. In addition, the Purple-rumped Sunbird could also be found in the area.

It will be evident from the above data that in the flock sizes single birds ~~and~~ predominate.

The next most common bird was the Indian Myna. This sp. accounted for about 10.4% of the total bird population. The abundance was c. 9.7 c/h. During the time of study, the mynas had just bred since some immature birds could also be seen. The following are the observed sizes of the flocks and the frequency of meeting them.

flock size	frequency	3.....4	5.....1
1.....5		4.. .. 0	
2.....	.8		

Here it might be observed that it is the pairs which are most frequently met with compared to groups of other sizes. The groups having more than two birds is mostly because of the fact that some immature~~s~~ birds were also seen together with the adult pair.

Third in the list of abundance comes the Roseringed Parakeet with c. 8.5 c/h and accounting for c. 9.1% of the population. The relatively high abundance might be because of the fact that apart from the suitable foraging grounds being in the vicinity, there are also holes in the trees which are moderately common. The flock size and the frequency of meeting them is given below.

flock size frequency

1.7

3.....1

28

4.....2

The Jungle Crow comes fourth in the list with an abundance of c. 6.2 c/h and constituting about 6.7% of the population. The ratio of solitary birds to pairs is 13:6. Flocks containing larger numbers were not met with perhaps because of their more solitary habit than that of the House Crow.


The Spotted Dove comes next with an abundance of 6 c/h and accounting for c. 6.4% of the local population. The place it occupies here is relatively higher compared to the place (7th) it occupies in a place like Lalbagh, This is probably because of the greater amount of food available here since this is an agricultural area.

The actual numbers of the Spotted Owllet might be greater than the observed abundance because these were observed on two cloudy mornings perched on a branch of a tree.

With reference to the data it might be however noted that (1) even auditory contacts were included and (2) the transects were primarily done to record bird numbers and not to study bird flocks as such.

TABLE

Species			C/H	%
<u>Corvus splendens</u> , House Crow	--	--	20.0	21.4
Acridotheres tristis, Indian Myna	--	--	9.7	10.4
Psittacula krameri, Roseringed Parakeet	--		8.5	9.1
Corvus macrorhynchos, Jungle Crow	--	--	6.2	6.7
Streptopelia chinensis, Spotted Dove	--	--	6.0	6.4
Prinia socialis, Ashy Wren-warbler	--		4.2	4.5
Lonchura punctulata, Spotted Munia	--	--	4.0	4.3
Ploceus philippinus, Baya Weaver-bird	--		3.7	4.0
Cisticola juncidis, Streaked Fantail Warbler			3.6	3.2
Nectarinia zeylonica, Purple-rumped Sunbird			2.7	2.9
Dicrurus adsimilis, Black Drongo	--		2.5	2.7
Centropus sinensis, Crow-pheasant	--	--	2.2	2.4
Copsychus saularis, Magpie-Robin	--	--	1.8	1.9
Eudynamys scolopacea, Koel	--	--	1.5	1.6
Halcyon smyrnensis, White-breasted Kingfisher			1.5	1.6
Dicaeum erythrorhynchos, Tickell's Flowerpecker			1.2	1.3
^{Common} Milvus migrans, Pariah Kite	--	--	1.0	1.1
Turdoides affinis, White-headed Babbler	--		0.2	0.3
Unidentified	--	--	1.0	1.1
Ardeola grayii, Pond Heron	--	--	0.7	0.8
Athene brama, Spotted Owlet	--	--	0.7	0.8
Dendrocitta vagabunda, Tree Pie	--	--	0.7	0.8

Orthotomus sutorius, Tailor Bird	-	-	3.7	4.0
Streptopelia decaocto, Ring Dove	--	--	1.0	1.1
Columba livia, Blue Rock Pigeon	--	--	0.5	0.5
Clamator jacobinus, Pied Crested Cuckoo	--		-do.-	
Coracias Benghalensis, Roller	--	--	-do.-	
Megalaima haemacephala, Crimson-breasted Barbet			-do.-	
Dinopium benghalense, Golden-backed Woodpecker			-do.-	
 ^{Cantillans} Mirafra javanica , ^{Lark} Singing Bushlark	-	-	-do.-	
Pycnonotus cafer, Redvented Bulbul	--	--	-do.-	
Haliastur inaus, Brahminy Kite	--	--	0.2	0.3
Accipiter badius, Shikra	--	--	0.2	0.3
Upupa epops, Hoopoe	--	--	-do.-	
Megalaima viridis, Small Green Barbet	-	-	-do.-	
Pycnonotus jocosus, Redwhiskered Bulbul	-	-	-do.-	
Prinia subflava, Indian Wren-warbler	--	--	-do.-	
Zosterops palpebrosa, White-eye	--	--	-do.-	